



Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

When circumstances permit, the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession.

The branches of palm or of other trees or shrubs to be carried in the procession may be distributed to the people before the service, or after the prayer of blessing.

The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing:

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant: Let us pray: Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gospel: Mark 11:1–11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Celebrant then says the following blessing:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said:

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

The Procession

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung, such as the hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," and Psalm 118:19–29.

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.;
harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

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At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate collect is said:.

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray: Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Readings

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4–9a

The LORD God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens —
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The LORD God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
The LORD God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the LORD God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 31:9–16

- 9 **H**ave mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my
neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, “You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

See next page





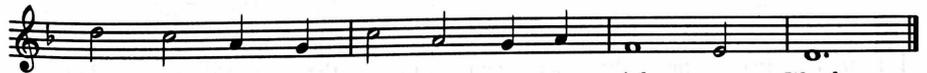
1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum-bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 *5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 *6 Chris-tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt.
 Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Reader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Deon; for our priest, Annette; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your prayers for those who are sick, suffering, or lost.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your thanksgiving for the beauty of the creation.

[*Silence.*]

Reader: I ask your prayers for the departed, [especially_____].
Pray for those who have died.

[*Silence.*]

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present:

[I ask your prayers for _____.]

[I ask your thanksgiving for _____.]

[*Silence.*]

Reader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

[*Silence.*]

Officiant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Agape

*While sharing a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time, this liturgy expresses our longing for a time when we can once more share and gather together at the Eucharistic table. This practice of giving thanks for bread, wine and food is ancient, going back to the hospitality our ancestor Abraham showed to his visitors. While **not** the full celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that giving thanks over water is a reminder of our Baptism.*

The Officiant and People give thanks for the gift of wine.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Officiant and People give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Officiant and People give thanks for the gift of food.

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The wine, bread, and food may be consumed after the liturgy.

The Conclusion

Officiant: God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

People: You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.

Officiant: Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated

Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace is exchanged:

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While we can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in church at this time, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

[Click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry by donating online.

Final Hymn

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My Song is Love Unknown

(vss. 1, 2, and 7)

1 My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but
*3 Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing, re -
*4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He
*5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made a - way; a

1 to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. O
2 men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know. But
3 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then
4 made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight. Sweet
5 mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life they slay. Yet

1 who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 2 O my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.
 3 "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 4 in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.
 5 stead-fast he to suf - fering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

*6 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heaven was his home;
 but mine the tomb
 wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
 no story so divine:
 never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend,
 in whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 could gladly spend.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), alt.
 Music: *Love Unknown*, John Ireland (1879-1962)

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The Reading of the Passion

Mark 14:32 – 15:47

(See *Passion booklet*)

The congregation departs in silence after the reading of the Passion

Servers

Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Annette Joseph

Reader

Wayne Hoover

Organist

Mary Miller

Vocalist

Randyn Heisserer-Miller

Ministry Intern

Joshua Smith

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Notes on the Service

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

As Holy Week begins commemorations of Jesus' suffering and death, many churches change their liturgical color to blood red, and many launch today's service with a procession of palm, olive, yew or other branches to recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when crowds with branches greeted him there as a peace-bringing king. Christians have held Palm Sunday processions since at least the 4th century. The hymn text now customary for it, "All Glory, Laud and Honor," is by Theodulf, whom Charlemagne appointed Bishop of Orleans in 798.

Written before Charlemagne's time, today's collect summarizes the epistle's theme of Christ's humility in taking human nature. It is a little treatise on redemption by means of the Incarnation and the Cross. More important than following his route to Jerusalem is following his example of patient suffering, and so being made participants in his resurrection.

Chapters 40-55 of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah contain four poems about an unnamed servant of the Lord who suffers vicariously for the benefit of his people. Today's first reading is the third of those four. (The first servant song will be read on Monday, the second on Tuesday, this one again on Wednesday, and the fourth on Good Friday.) Many readers have speculated about whom Isaiah could have been describing. Guesses include the prophet himself, a leader of the Babylonian Jewish exiles, the whole nation personified. As evident by the lectionary's use of the songs during Holy Week, Christians identify the sufferer as Jesus. To make that claim, one could say that the 6th century author was inspired to predict Jesus' suffering, or one could say that Jesus chose to follow Isaiah's prescription. Either way, "I gave my back to those who struck me...." and so on, fit Jesus' passion.

Psalm 31 is another anonymous sufferer's lament. One can imagine its use by Isaiah's suffering servant, and by Jesus, as in "they plot to take my life...."

THE persecuted servant is God emptied into human form, claims Paul, possibly quoting a hymn familiar to his first readers, but now lost. Because of Christ's self-abasement God gave him, or restored to him, universal sovereignty: "Lord of all."

"Passion" is used here in the older sense of suffering, not in the current sense of strong feelings. Mark's account of Jesus' Passion is thought to have been the simpler template onto which other Gospels' accounts added their details and interpretations. One of the few episodes in Mark which is not in other Gospels is the sleepy young man who when seized slipped out of his sheet and ran away naked. Some have speculated that that man could have been Mark himself, inserted into a detail of the story, the way the filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock would make a cameo appearance in his films.